

8 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. James McCarger

1. On 29 September 1969, I was called by Mr. Robert Gabor, [ ] He had just returned from a business trip to Europe, [ ] and he advised that during a stopover in Paris he had had a brief meeting with Mr. James McCarger, with whom he was associated many years ago while both worked for Free Europe, Inc. Gabor informed me that McCarger had told him that financially he (McCarger) was in extremely bad shape and that, as a matter of fact, he was almost literally starving. Gabor told me that McCarger's statement should be interpreted in light of McCarger's penchant for living in high style. On the other hand, according to Gabor, McCarger did seem to have come on hard times. McCarger had told Gabor that he had no regular income and that the return from his free-lance writing activities was at best marginal. McCarger told Gabor that he was working on a new book, but he (McCarger) lamented about the slow progress he was making on it and about the uncertainty as to whether he would be able to find a publisher for it. (In reply to my question, Gabor said that he does not know the subject matter of McCarger's new book.) According to Gabor, McCarger said that he was in dire need of financial assistance until his new book is published. McCarger said that the period in question was six-ten months, and that a sum in the neighborhood of \$7,500 should see him through it. McCarger, who knows of Gabor's association with the Agency from their joint days with Free Europe, Inc., asked Gabor to intercede with the Agency on his behalf. He told Gabor that "if there is one friend I have in the Agency, it is Jim Angleton."

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2. I told Gabor (truthfully) that the name of James McCarger rang a bell but that I was unable to place him just then. I also told Gabor that I would look into the problem and that I would then do what seemed appropriate (I acknowledged knowing Mr. Angleton). At the same time I told Gabor that I had no way of knowing just where my inquiries would lead me and that it would be best, therefore, that he (Gabor) not put me under any obligation to advise him of the results. Gabor expressly accepted the validity of my position.

3. After obtaining some background information on McCarger in terms of his association with Free Europe, Inc., I met with Mr. James Angleton, Chief, CI on 3 October. I briefed him per the above. Mr. Angleton filled me in on certain other background data and advised me to leave the matter in his hands. Accordingly, I shall not pursue it.

  
Deputy Chief  
Covert Action Staff

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